



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Amendment

LCO No. 6114

HB0588606114SR0

Offered by:

SEN. RUSSO, 22nd Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5886

File No. 751

Cal. No. 496

***"AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
MATTABASSETT DISTRICT COMMISSION."***

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 7-421 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

5 (a) No person employed in the classified civil service may (1) use his
6 official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or
7 affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office; or (2)
8 directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command or advise a
9 state or local officer or employee to pay, lend or contribute anything of
10 value to a party, committee, organization, agency or person for
11 political purposes.

12 (b) A person employed in said classified service retains the right to
13 vote as he chooses and to express his opinions on political subjects and
14 candidates and shall be free to participate actively in political

15 management and campaigns. Such activity may include, but shall not
16 be limited to, membership and holding of office in a political party,
17 organization or club, campaigning for a candidate in a partisan
18 election by making speeches, writing on behalf of the candidate or
19 soliciting votes in support of or in opposition to a candidate and
20 making contributions of time and money to political parties,
21 committees or other agencies engaged in political action, except that no
22 classified employee shall engage in such activity while on duty or
23 within any period of time during which such employee is expected to
24 perform services for which he receives compensation from the
25 municipality, and no such employee shall utilize municipal funds,
26 supplies, vehicles or facilities to secure support for or oppose any
27 candidate, party, or issue in a political partisan election.
28 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, any municipal
29 employee may be a candidate for a federal, state or municipal elective
30 office in a political partisan election and no municipality or any officer
31 or employer thereof shall take or threaten to take any personnel action
32 against any such employee due to such candidacy. No person seeking
33 or holding state or municipal office in accordance with the provisions
34 of this subsection shall engage in political activity or in the
35 performance of the duties of such office while on municipal duty or
36 within any period of time during which such person is expected to
37 perform services for which such person receives compensation from
38 the municipality.

39 (c) Any municipal employee who leaves his municipal employment
40 to accept a full-time elective municipal office shall be granted a
41 personal leave of absence without pay from his municipal employment
42 for not more than two consecutive terms of such office or for a period
43 of four years, whichever is shorter. Upon reapplication for his original
44 position at the expiration of such term or terms of office, such person
45 shall be reinstated in his most recent municipal position or a similar
46 position with equivalent pay or to a vacancy in any other position such
47 person is qualified to fill. If no such positions are available, such
48 person's name shall be placed on all reemployment lists for classes for

49 which he is eligible. Such person shall give notice in writing to his
50 municipal employer that he is a candidate for a full-time elective
51 municipal office within thirty days after nomination for that office.

52 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
53 upon the request of any municipal employee to whom a personal leave
54 of absence has been granted pursuant to said subsection, his municipal
55 employer may, in its sole discretion, determine whether to extend such
56 leave of absence beyond the period permitted in said subsection and, if
57 extended, what terms and conditions shall pertain to such extension.
58 As part of any such extension, rights of reinstatement with equivalent
59 pay or benefits may be granted to such employee.

60 (e) Any municipal employee shall have the right to serve on any
61 governmental body of the town in which such employee resides except
62 any body which has responsibility for direct supervision of such
63 employee. Nothing in this section shall permit any such employee to
64 serve on the legislative body of the town if such employee is
65 prohibited from serving pursuant to the provisions of the municipal
66 charter or home rule ordinance. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
67 subsection, (1) no such employee shall serve on any of the following
68 unless such employee is permitted to serve pursuant to the provisions
69 of a municipal charter or home rule ordinance or serves because of
70 membership on the legislative body of the municipality: (A) Any board
71 of finance created pursuant to chapter 106 or any special act or
72 municipal charter; (B) any body exercising zoning powers pursuant to
73 chapter 124 or any special act or municipal charter; (C) any body
74 exercising land use powers pursuant to chapter 125a or any special act
75 or municipal charter; (D) any body exercising planning powers
76 pursuant to chapter 126 or any special act or municipal charter; or (E)
77 any body regulating inland wetlands and watercourses pursuant to
78 chapter 440 or any special act or municipal charter; and (2) any
79 municipality may, by ordinance adopted by its legislative body,
80 authorize such employees to serve on (A) any body exercising zoning
81 powers pursuant to chapter 124 or any special act or municipal charter;
82 (B) any body exercising land use powers pursuant to chapter 125a or

83 any special act or municipal charter; (C) any body exercising planning
84 powers pursuant to chapter 126 or any special act or municipal charter;
85 or (D) any body regulating inland wetlands and watercourses
86 pursuant to chapter 440 or any special act or municipal charter."